



# *FRAMING:* BUILDING A SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE PROGRAM FOR NEWBORNS

SC Birth Outcomes Initiative Symposium  
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Michelle Greco, RNC, BSN

# INTRODUCTION



- MAiN Program Administrators



- Medical Director
  - Jennifer Hudson
- Project Manager
  - Michelle Greco



# DISCLOSURES



- The presenters have no significant financial or commercial interests to disclose.
- Today's discussion will include the use of oral methadone solution to prevent and treat neonatal opioid withdrawal, which is an “off-label” use. There are no FDA-approved medications for treating withdrawal in children, but the American Academy of Pediatrics supports the use of oral methadone and morphine solutions for this purpose.
- This presentation is for educational purposes only. No portion may be video taped or reproduced for future distribution or presentation without the express consent of the presenters.

# OBJECTIVES



- Understand the **case for need** behind MAiN expansion
- Assess your facility's **readiness** for implementing the MAiN model
- Recall the **benefits and steps** for applying to become a MAiN-designated facility

# SESSION AGENDA

- Framing the Issue
- The MAiN Model
  - Overview
  - Cohort Analysis
  - Outcomes
- MAiN Expansion
  - AnMed
  - Grant Overview and Timeline
  - Resources
  - Expectations
  - Application Process and Timeline
  - Next Steps
- Questions



# WHY WE'RE HERE



- Suffering is cruel and unnecessary
- Newborns at risk deserve early and effective treatment for opioid withdrawal, just as they do for pain
- The MAiN early treatment model is safe, effective, cost-saving and feasible for hospitals to replicate

# GROWING THREAT OF NAS

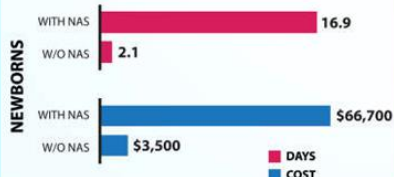
## DRAMATIC INCREASES IN MATERNAL OPIOID USE AND NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME

THE USE OF OPIOIDS DURING PREGNANCY CAN RESULT IN A DRUG WITHDRAWAL SYNDROME IN NEWBORNS CALLED **NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME (NAS)**, WHICH CAUSES **LENGTHY** AND **COSTLY** HOSPITAL STAYS. ACCORDING TO A NEW STUDY, AN ESTIMATED **21,732 BABIES** WERE BORN WITH THIS SYNDROME IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2012, A **5-FOLD INCREASE** SINCE 2000.

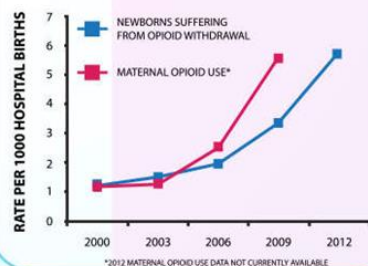


**EVERY 25 MINUTES,  
A BABY IS BORN SUFFERING  
FROM OPIOID WITHDRAWAL.**

### AVERAGE LENGTH OR COST OF HOSPITAL STAY



### NAS AND MATERNAL OPIOID USE ON THE RISE



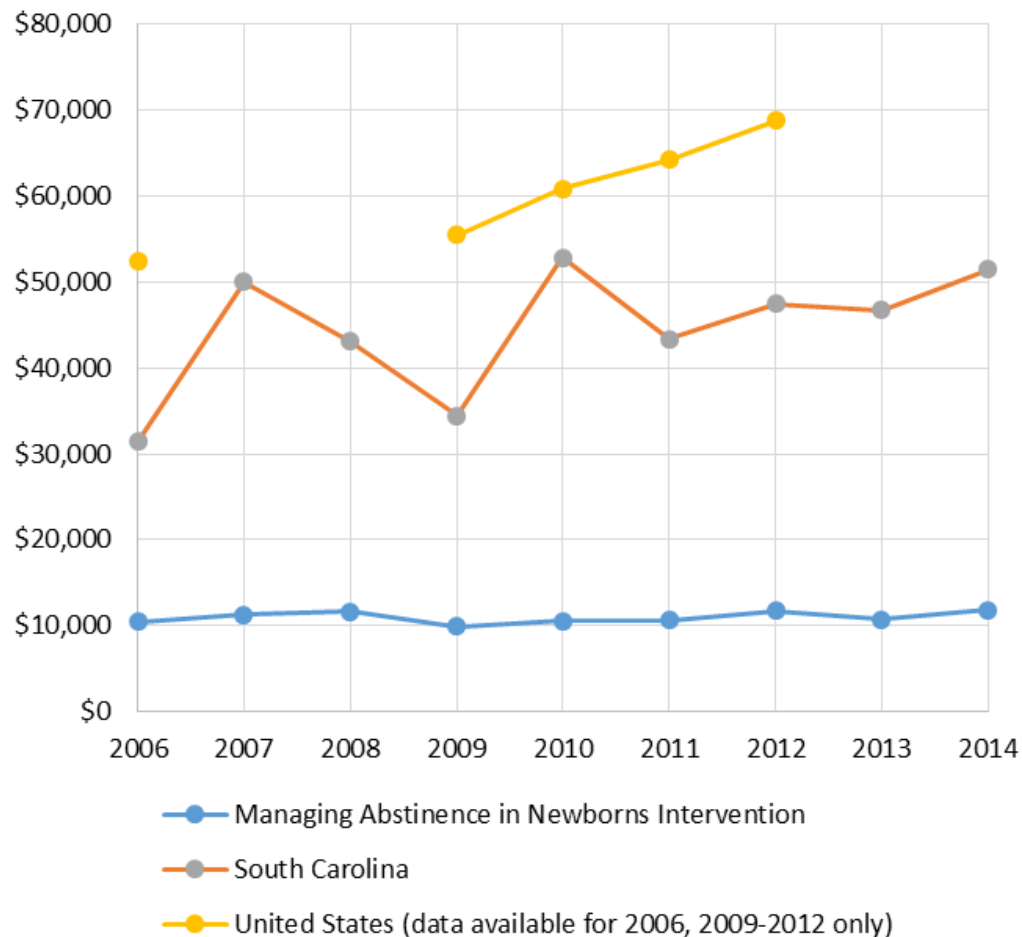
- 30% of young Medicaid women have a current opioid prescription
- Among women using opioids, 86% of pregnancies are unplanned
- Rates of NAS cases from rural communities has risen from 12.9% to 21.2%
- Over 80% of NAS cases are billed to Medicaid

**\$1.2 billion in 2012**



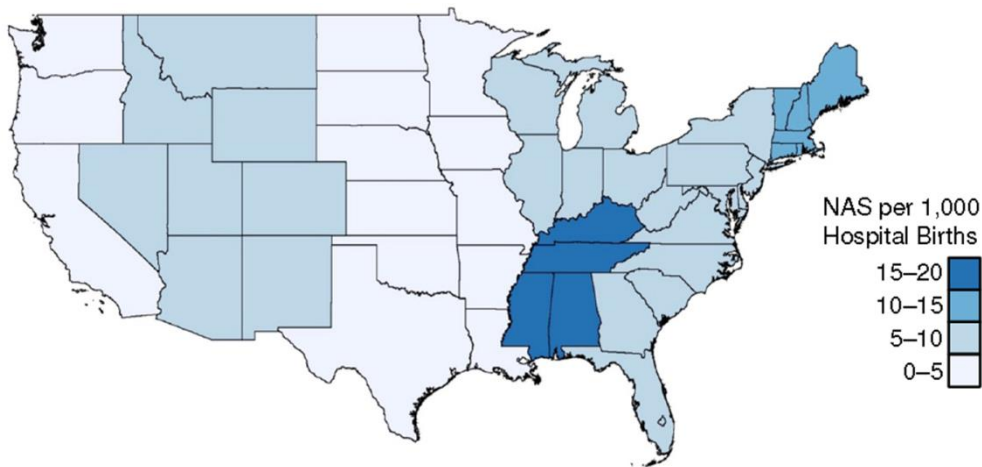
# NAS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Average Inpatient Charges for NAS Infants,  
2006-2014





# NAS IN SOUTH CAROLINA



Patrick SW, Davis MM, Lehmann CU, et al. *J Perinatol*. 2015 Aug;35(8):650-5

## Mean SC Hospital Charges (All Payers) per NAS Birth, 2014

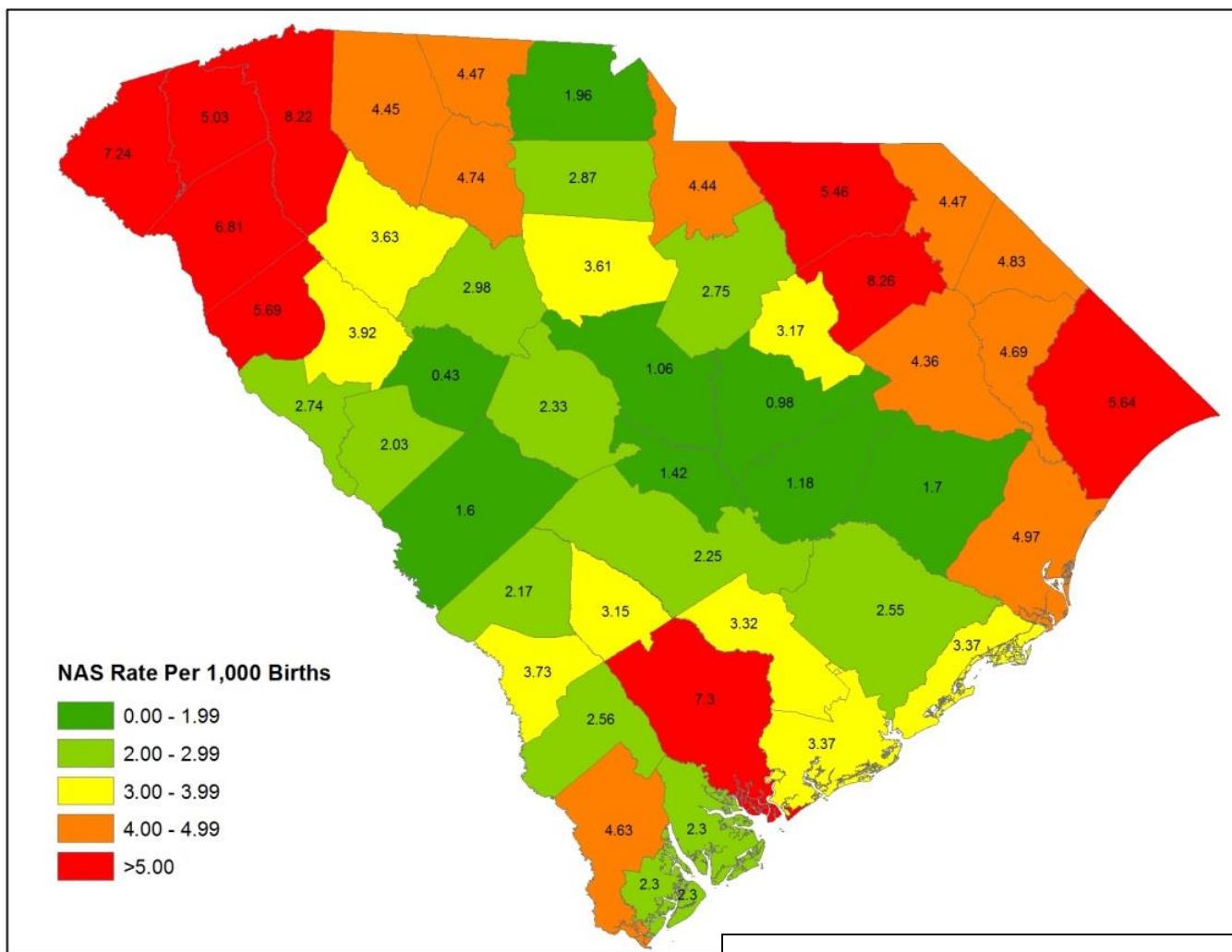
Overall	\$60,176
In NICU	\$157,912
Total	\$24,250,928

### Source of Data:

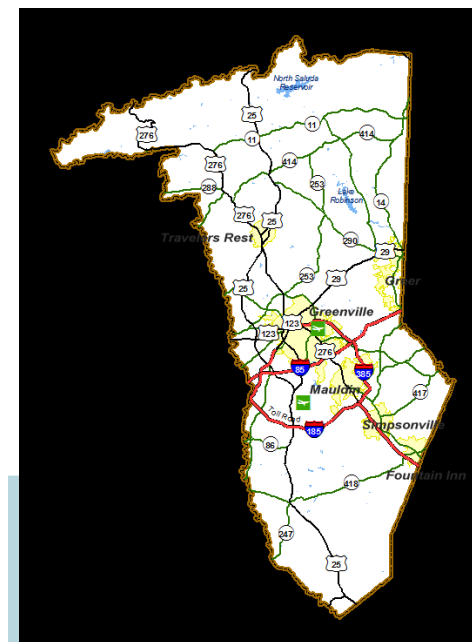
South Carolina Office of Research and Statistics  
Division of Research and Statistics  
UB-04 Hospital Billing Data

# GROWING THREAT OF NAS

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Rate Per 1,000 Births by South Carolina County, 2006-2014



**Greenville County**  
**6421 births in 2015**  
**52 potential cases**



**Source of Data:**  
South Carolina Office of Research and Statistics

# ETHICAL DILEMMAS WITH NEONATAL OPIOID DEPENDENCE



<http://faiths-place-08.blogspot.com/2010/06/baby-genevieve.html>

Photo used with written consent by newborn's mother for purpose of internal and external education

**Pain** /pān/

**Origin of PAIN**

Middle English, from Anglo-French *peine*, from Latin *poena*, from Greek *poinē* payment, penalty; akin to Greek *tinein* to pay, *tinesthai* to punish, Avestan *kaēnā* revenge, Sanskrit *cayate* the revenges First Known Use: 14th century

**noun**

1. physical suffering or discomfort caused by illness or injury



- Neuroanatomical components and neuroendocrine systems are sufficiently developed to allow transmission of painful stimuli in the neonate.
- Exposure to prolonged or severe pain may increase neonatal morbidity.
- Infants who have experienced pain during the neonatal period respond differently to subsequent painful events.
- Neonates are not easily comforted when analgesia is needed.
- “The prevention of pain in neonates should be the goal of all caregivers...”

Prevention and management of pain and stress in the neonate. AAP Committee on Fetus and Newborn. *Pediatrics*, 2000

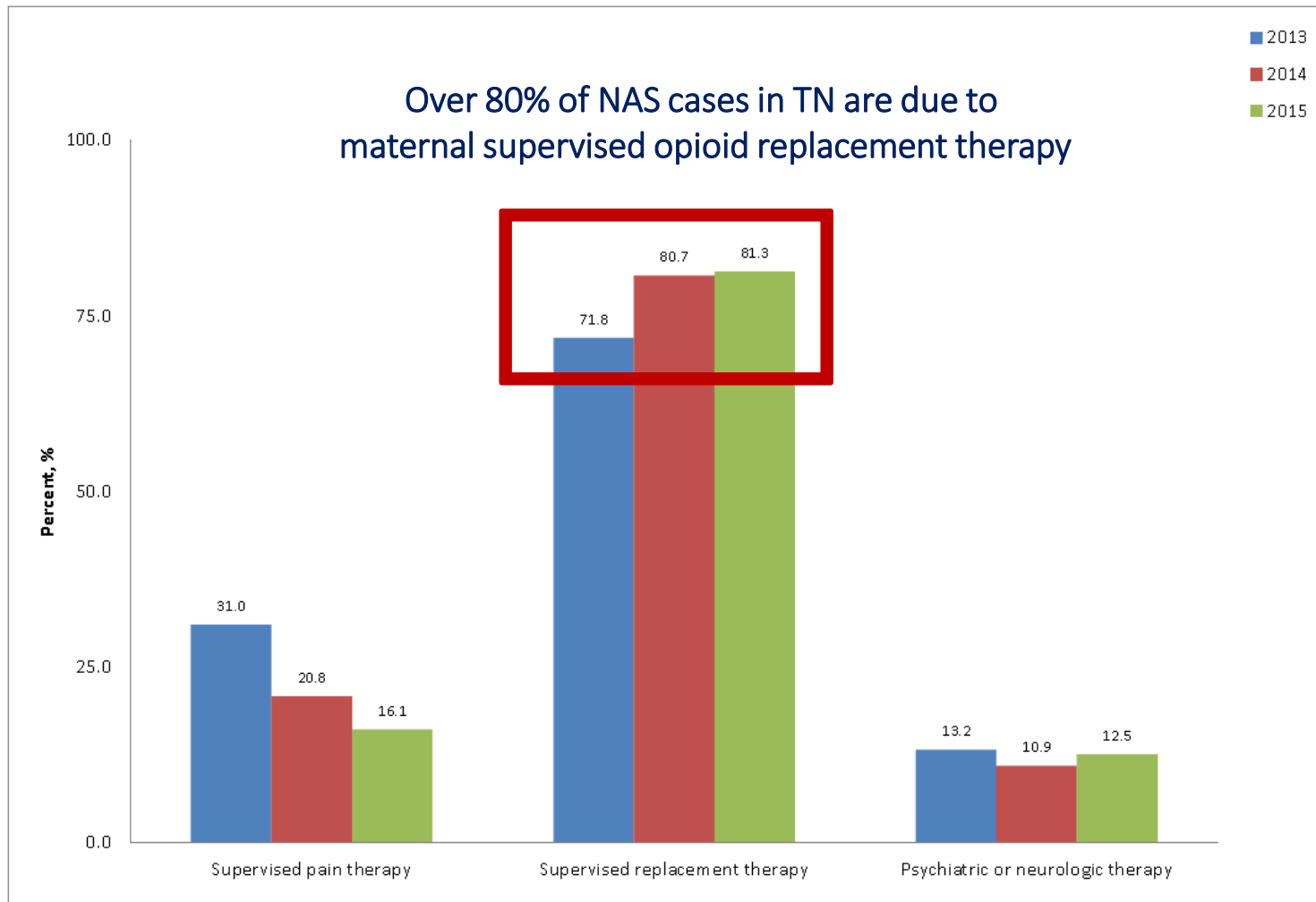
Prevention and management of pain in the neonate: an update. AAP Committee on Fetus and Newborn and Section on Surgery, Section on Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine; Canadian Paediatric Society, Fetus and Newborn Committee. *Pediatrics*, 2006

# CURRENT CLINICAL CHALLENGES

- A majority of birthing centers are not skilled in detecting or treating NAS
- Predicting which babies will develop NAS is difficult
- There is no single recommended approach for NAS care
- Most NAS care currently is delivered in neonatal ICUs
  - Separates mother and baby
  - Higher length of stay and cost
  - ICU beds used for non-critical care



# CURRENT CLINICAL CHALLENGES



**Figure 3: Class of Drug Exposure of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Cases with Prescription Drug Exposure Only, Tennessee 2013-2015.** Trends were not statistically significant.



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# CORE BELIEFS



- ✓ All women deserve a positive birth experience.
- ✓ Mothers and newborns belong together, with rare exception.
- ✓ Sudden opioid withdrawal is painful, potentially harmful, and should be prevented.
- ✓ Health care providers should advocate for the well-being of vulnerable populations.
- ✓ All patients deserve a primary care medical home.



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



- A majority of NAS cases are associated with maternal supervised opioid replacement therapy.
- Otherwise healthy newborns chronically exposed to long-acting opioids in late gestation may be presumed opioid-dependent and at high risk for withdrawal.
- Opioid-dependent newborns, whether due to fetal or postnatal exposure, should be managed using similar methods, such as anticipatory oral weaning.
- Ongoing NAS care in NICUs will increasingly strain resources needed for other critical neonatal conditions.
- Prolonged hospitalization is associated with high costs and rare but serious safety risks.
- Rooming-in promotes maternal-infant bonding and a supportive care environment for treating NAS.
- Case management services to develop appropriate plans of safe care are especially beneficial for mothers with substance use disorders and their infants.

# CRITICAL COMPONENTS



**Early Medication Treatment for  
Qualified Newborns**  
(within 24 hours of birth)



**Rooming-in with Mother or Care  
in Level I Nursery**



**Inpatient Stabilization with  
Outpatient Wean**  
(average LOS 8 days)



# OUTPATIENT CARE

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Methadone 0.75ml orally twice a day Morning Night	6 Methadone 0.75ml orally twice a day Morning Night
7 WEAN and give methadone 0.7ml orally twice a day Morning Night	8 Methadone 0.7ml orally twice a day Morning Night	9 Methadone 0.7ml orally twice a day Morning Night	10 WEAN and give methadone 0.6ml orally twice a day Morning Night	11 Methadone 0.6ml orally twice a day Morning Night	12 Methadone 0.6ml orally twice a day Morning Night	13 Methadone 0.6ml orally twice a day Morning Night
14 WEAN and give methadone 0.5ml orally twice a day Morning Night	15 Methadone 0.5ml orally twice a day Morning Night	16 Methadone 0.5ml orally twice a day Morning Night	17 WEAN and give methadone 0.4ml orally twice a day Morning Night	18 Methadone 0.4ml orally twice a day Morning Night	19 Methadone 0.4ml orally twice a day Morning Night	20 Methadone 0.4ml orally twice a day Morning Night
21 WEAN and give methadone 0.3ml orally twice a day Morning Night	22 Methadone 0.3ml orally twice a day Morning Night	23 Methadone 0.3ml orally twice a day Morning Night	24 WEAN and give methadone 0.2ml orally twice a day Morning Night	25 Methadone 0.2ml orally twice a day Morning Night	26 Methadone 0.2ml orally twice a day Morning Night	27 Methadone 0.2ml orally twice a day Morning Night
28 WEAN and give methadone 0.1ml orally twice a day Morning Night	29 Methadone 0.1ml orally twice a day Morning Night					

Weaning Calendar with  
Pre-Filled Oral Syringes

Outpatient Check-Ups  
Weekly for 4 Weeks



SC DHEC Nurse  
Home Visit(s)



# MEASURING OUTCOMES

Retrospective study of eligible babies born at GHS with NAS diagnosis from 2006-2014 conducted by Clemson University to:

- **Describe** the health outcomes and hospital costs for newborns with NAS who were treated with MAiN
- **Forecast** the potential long-term Medicaid savings due to wider implementation of MAiN
- **Compare** outcomes of MAiN infants to comparable NAS infants receiving traditional care between 2006-2014 in SC



## Newborn Demographics (N= 117)

Male Gender	59 (50%)
Caucasian Race	105 (90%)
Gestational Age	
35-36 weeks	12 (10%)
37 weeks	23 (20%)
38-42 weeks	80 (70%)
Apgar Score at 5 Minutes $\geq$ 8	115 (98%)
Small for Gestational Age	20 (17%)
Insured by Medicaid	111 (95%)

# MEDICAL OUTCOMES

Medical Outcomes (n=117)	
Median peak modified Finnegan score	10 (mean peak DOL 2)
Average peak weight loss level (%)	7 ± 2.5% (mean peak DOL 3)
Prominent GI symptoms (vomiting, diarrhea, poor feeding)	7%
Prominent CNS symptoms (crying, wakeful, tremors, hypertonic, hyperreflexic)	51%
Over-sedation from medication	4%
Safety events	
Unsafe sleeping	7%
Infant fall/drop	1%
Near suffocation	2%
Medication error by hospital staff	0
Death	0
ER visit after discharge (30 days)	14%
Readmitted (RSV, pertussis, fever, vomiting, failure to thrive)	7%

# CLINICAL OUTCOMES

## Medication Treatment Variables (n=117)

Average discharge methadone dose	0.5 $\pm$ 0.25 mg/kg/day 0.6 mg every 12 hours
Mean amount of methadone dispensed	33 mg

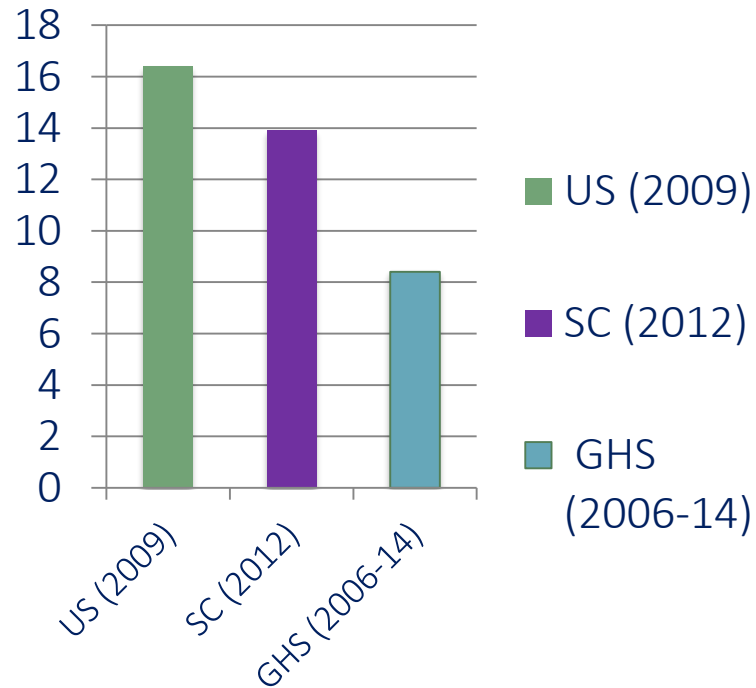
Current cost to family  
for infant's weaning  
medication: \$4-12





# COSTS & UTILIZATION

Average Length of Stay



MAiN-Treated Newborns (n=117)	Mean
Hospital <b>charges</b> per case	\$10,945
Hospital <b>reimbursement</b> per case	\$5,261
Hospital <b>costs</b> per case	\$5,909
Length of stay, days	8.3

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# MAIN EXPANSION



- Implementation at AnMed since 2016
- Preliminary Analyses indicate that MAiN patients at AnMed experienced similar outcomes to the patients historically treated at GHS, including:
  - Mean length of stay: 8.3 days
  - Mean rooming-in days: 3.4 days
  - Mean peak weight loss: 4.7%
  - Mean peak Finnegan score: 7
  - Breastfeeding rate: 33%



# MAIN EXPANSION



## Implementation Successes

- *Consistent care*
- *Seeing results immediately*
- *New resources (OT, monitors)*
- *Mentoring and support*

### Ann Patterson, MD, Pediatric Hospitalist

"Anytime I've had questions about anything, I have been supported. In the beginning, when there were questions about forms, I was able to ask Dr. Hudson and get to her quickly. MAiN staff members have always gotten back to me and been very responsive. "

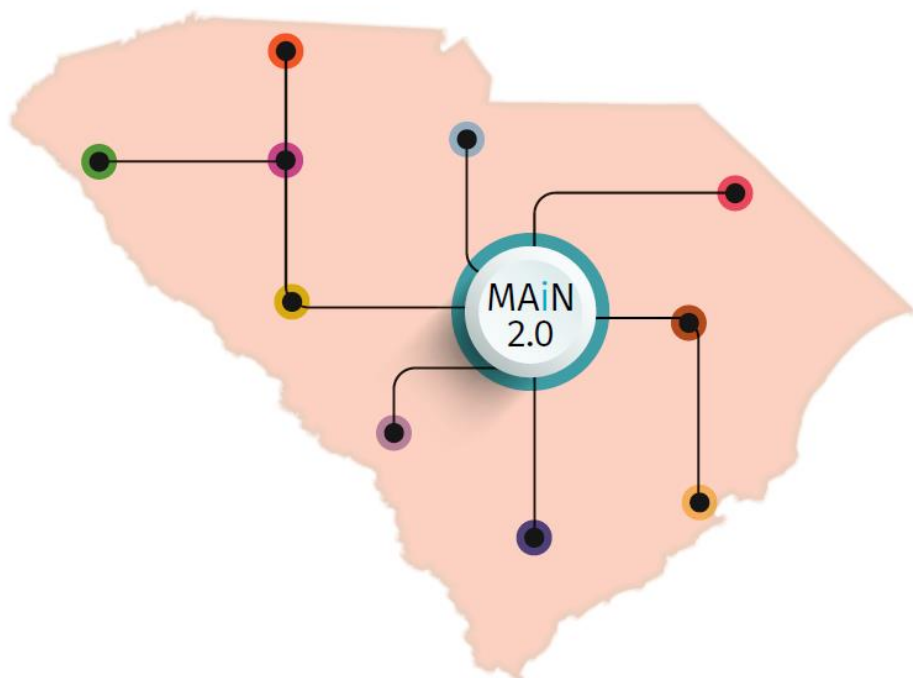
## Implementation Barriers

- *Monitoring equipment and workflow issues*
- *Talking to families about early treatment*
- *Staff resistance to change*
- *Training needs*

### Doris Street, BS, BSN, RN, CNOR, NE-BC, Nurse Manager, Maternity Services

"The MAiN model was successful because our patients really loved the fact that they would be able to stay here with their baby. Also, it was easier to have the early intervention, it made it easier for the staff, doctors, and patients."

# MAIN EXPANSION



The MAiN Program administrators, with support from the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, will partner with 10 birthing hospitals across SC over the next four years to implement the MAiN model at their facilities.



# BECOME A PARTNER



Applications Open Tomorrow  
Available on Website [www.mainbabies.org](http://www.mainbabies.org)  
Two-Part Application is due by December 20

## Application Instructions

Hospitals that wish to be considered as a MAiN expansion site must follow the application process:

- Step1:** Complete the self-appraisal and written application and obtain required signatures.
- Step2:** Return the fully completed, signed application and self-appraisal to the MAiN Program Manager via email to [mgreco@ghs.org](mailto:mgreco@ghs.org) or via fax at 864-455-4241 by close of business on the **deadline of December 20, 2017**.
- Step3:** Have patience! Depending on the number applications received, we may contact you in January to request a teleconference or additional information. You will be notified of the status of your application in early February.
- Step4:** Share the love! To show our love for our new partners, the first round of selected participants will be announced at the South Carolina Birth Outcomes Initiative meeting at the South Carolina Hospital Association in Columbia on Valentine's Day (February 14) 2018! Applicants are invited and encouraged to attend the meeting.

# APPLICATION PROCESS



## Part I: Self-Appraisal

### Part I: Facility Self-Appraisal

The self-appraisal contains four sections. Please provide answers that reflect current (not planned) facility operations. Answers will NOT impact eligibility for participation in MAiN expansion.

Section 1	Build a multi-disciplinary team that is dedicated to improving care for newborns at risk for opioid withdrawal.	Yes	No
1.1	Does the facility have a collaborative relationship with obstetric providers who deliver newborns in the hospital?		
1.2	Does the facility have a collaborative relationship with community providers who care for newborns after discharge?		
1.3	Can the facility identify a newborn provider champion who will be dedicated as the team lead for implementing the MAiN model?		
1.4	Can the facility identify a nursing champion who will be engaged with implementing the MAiN model?		
1.5	Does the facility employ a case manager or social worker dedicated to maternal, newborn and/or pediatric care?		
1.6	Does the facility provide any of the following services for newborns?		

## Part II: Application

- Identify a dedicated Implementation Team
- Provide Facility Data
- Answer Narrative Questions



### Part II: Facility Application

Dedicated Implementation Team Information	
Newborn Provider, practice name, and role within facility	
Nurse Lead and job title	
Social Worker or Case Manager	
Other Key Staff (List Positions)	

Facility Data	
PLEASE NOTE: If you are unable to obtain the requested data in a timely fashion, please provide an estimate using the most recent data available. Please indicate the year of data provided and indicate whether data is estimated.	
How many cases of NAS were diagnosed in your facility during the 24 month period from Oct 1 2015 to Sept 30 2017? (Filter by ICD10 code P96.1 and gestational ages 35-42 weeks*)	
How many mothers who delivered in your facility were coded for opioid dependence during the birth hospitalization in the 24 month period from Oct 1 2015 to September 30 2017? (Filter by ICD10 code group F11)	
How many newborn admissions per year to your mother/baby unit?	
How many newborn admissions per year to your special care nursery and NICU?	
How many newborn providers (and groups) round on your mother/baby unit?	
How many obstetricians (and groups) deliver in your facility?	
How many nurses work in your mother/baby unit?	
How many nurses work in your special care nursery or Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)?	
What system of Electronic Medical Record (EMR) do you use?	

\*Other codes that may reflect NAS include: P04.1, P04.49, and P04.8



# APPLICATION PROCESS



## Acknowledgement and Signatures:

- ✓ Agree to dedicate time and staff resources
- ✓ Agree to provide data
- ✓ Understand funding agreement



### Acknowledgement and Approvals

The facility Director of Nursing for the Mom/Baby Unit and the facility Director of Nursing for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, or the person with resource allocation authority, must initial each statement and provide a signature below. If resources for mothers and newborns are allocated by different departments or administrators, both parties should be aware of and agree to the application for participation in the MAiN expansion.

Initials	Statement
____	1. I/we the undersigned recognize that participation in the implementation of the MAiN model is a multi-year engagement and commit to dedicating adequate staff time and resources necessary for the project.
____	2. I/we the undersigned agree to provide timely, accurate, case-specific data to the program administrators.
____	3. I/we the undersigned recognize that failure to implement the model within a reasonable time frame, not to exceed the duration of the contractual partnership with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, may result in a request for the facility to reimburse allocated funding in full. This will ensure that state funding is available for another facility committed to implementing the model.

# PHASES OF PROJECT PARTNERSHIP



## MAiNframing

3 months

- Review materials on [www.mainbabies.org](http://www.mainbabies.org)
- Identify your dedicated MAiN team
- Complete and submit applications on or before December 20
- Attend BOI monthly meeting on February 14, 2018 for announcement

## MAiNstreaming

3-4 months

- Host the MAiN Program administrators for a site visit to your facility
- Conduct review of current processes related to NAS care
- Develop a detailed action plan for implementation
- Complete online training
- Access and use MAiN model development tools on website

## MAiNtaining

1-3 years

- Implement necessary policy or procedural changes
- Launch MAiN at your facility with onsite training
- Receive support from MAiN Program administrators monthly and as needed
- Report case data to MAiN Program administrators upon infant discharge from hospital

# PROJECT PARTNERSHIP



## Partner Hospitals Will Receive:

- On-site Training
- Access to online training tools and resources
- Remote support during model implementation
- Funding to offset implementation costs

## Ideal Partner Hospital Profile:

- Level II – IV designations
- High delivery rates (~500/year)
- High case rates of NAS babies and/or mothers on opioid replacement therapy

## Partner Hospitals Agree to:

- Dedicate adequate staff time and resources necessary to implement the model
- Provide timely, accurate, and case-specific data to the program administrators

# STAKEHOLDERS



- DAODAS, SCATOD, opioid treatment providers
- Medicaid managed care organizations
- DHEC, WIC, SCRIPTS
- DSS, Community-Based Prevention Services
- Behavioral and Mental Health Services
- Hospital staff
- Statewide community support services
- Primary care providers for pregnant women and children
- Affected families
- SC legislators

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# QUESTIONS



Research

Resources needed

Medical home

DSS involvement

Benefits to patients and hospital

More...

## Frequently Asked Questions

- + What does MAiN mean?
- + Who should consider becoming a MAiN expansion site?
- + Is MAiN a research project?
- + What resources will a hospital need to adopt the MAiN model?
- + Is it safe for a baby at risk for NAS to stay in a private room with his mother?
- + Is it harmful to prolong a newborn's opioid exposure after birth?
- + Do you allow mothers taking long-acting opioids to breastfeed?
- + What adverse events have MAiN babies in
- + Why was MAiN developed?
- + How will the MAiN model benefit our patients?
- + How will the MAiN model benefit our hospital?
- + Will there be any costs to us?
- + What if we aren't ready now but might be interested at a later time?
- + Is it safe to give opioid medications to newborns on the Mother/Baby Unit, and at home?
- + Do newborns on medication require more intensive nursing care?
- + With early treatment, what is the risk that babies given medication might not have

# CONTACT US

Website: [mainbabies.org](http://mainbabies.org)

Phone: 864-455-3114

Fax: 864-455-4241

Email: [mgreco@ghs.org](mailto:mgreco@ghs.org)  
[jhudson@ghs.org](mailto:jhudson@ghs.org)

Research questions?  
[rmayo@clemson.edu](mailto:rmayo@clemson.edu)



thank  
you!